



**School  
Resource Guide  
2015 - 2016**

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**[www.TNPromise.gov](http://www.TNPromise.gov)**



Last year, we launched Tennessee Promise, a program that provides high school graduates the opportunity to attend a community or technical college free of tuition and mandatory fees. The first year of Tennessee Promise was an incredible success, with over 58,000 Seniors applying and an unprecedented increase in FAFSA completion across our state.

Tennessee Promise is part of our larger Drive to 55 campaign, which is an initiative to ensure that 55 percent of our population holds a certificate or degree by 2025. Attaining this goal is key to our state's workforce readiness and economic future. This crucial mission means that while the first year of this program was a great success, we must continue to forge ahead and ensure college access in Tennessee continues to expand.

High school seniors will be able to apply for Tennessee Promise through November 2nd. This time frame means that it is important to communicate with high school seniors almost immediately about how the Tennessee Promise scholarship works and how they can submit an application.

We know that you, our school counselors, are one of the most valuable resources for students to make decisions about their future in college and career. Our hope is that this guide will be helpful to you in communicating to your students about Tennessee Promise.

Thank you for the work you do on a daily basis to ensure students succeed in high school and beyond.

Sincerely,

Bill Haslam

Governor of Tennessee





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**About  
Tennessee Promise**

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# OVERVIEW OF TENNESSEE PROMISE

## What is Tennessee Promise?

Tennessee Promise is a financial aid program offering Tennessee high school graduates two years of tuition-free community or technical college. The program began with the high school graduating class of 2015. It provides eligible students a last-dollar scholarship, meaning the scholarship will cover tuition and mandatory fees not covered by the Pell grant, the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship (TELS), or the Tennessee Student Assistance Award (TSAA).

While removing students' financial burden is key, a critical component of Tennessee Promise is the individual guidance each participant will receive from a mentor as the student enters higher education. Three organizations, the Ayers Foundation, REDI, and tnAchieves serve as local partners and administer the mentorship component of the program.

## Student Eligibility

To be eligible to receive a Tennessee Promise Scholarship, a student must:

- Be a Tennessee resident as defined by the Tennessee Board of Regents
- Graduate from an eligible Tennessee high school, complete a Tennessee home school program, or, prior to reaching 19 years of age, obtain a GED or HiSET diploma
- Be able to complete the FAFSA, qualify for in-state tuition, and possess a valid Social Security number
- Enroll in an eligible postsecondary program at an eligible college and attend full-time the fall after graduation (students attending a TCAT may enroll the summer following their high school graduation)
- Complete the Tennessee Promise application at [www.TNPromise.gov](http://www.TNPromise.gov)
- Meet all deadlines and requirements before enrolling

Additional information about student eligibility can be found on page 7.



## Program Requirements

In order for students to participate in the program, they must meet several requirements and deadlines:

- **November 2:** Deadline to apply for the Tennessee Promise scholarship at [www.TNPromise.gov](http://www.TNPromise.gov)
- **In January - March:** Attend first mandatory meeting coordinated by partnering organization
- **February 15:** Deadline to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)
- **In March - May:** Attend second mandatory meeting coordinated by partnering organization
- **In the spring:** Apply to and register for classes at an eligible institution (partnering organizations may recommend applying by February 15)
- **August 1:** Deadline to complete 8 hours of community service (*May 1 community service deadline for students enrolling at a TCAT the summer after high school graduation*)

Once in the program, students must do the following to retain their scholarship:

- *Maintain a 2.0 GPA at a community college or four-year institution or satisfactory academic progress at a Tennessee College of Applied Technology*
- *Complete the Tennessee Promise renewal application by July 1 prior to the academic year*
- *Complete 8 hours of community service per term enrolled (by August 1 for fall semester, December 1 for spring semester, May 1 for summer semester)*
- *Complete the FAFSA by February 15 every year of the program*

## Administration of Funds

The Tennessee Promise scholarship will be administered by the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC), while the mentoring and community service portions of the program will be coordinated by the partnering organization designated by each county's mayor or executive. Once a student applies for Tennessee Promise through [www.TNPromise.gov](http://www.TNPromise.gov), his or her respective partnering organization will be responsible for contacting the applicant regarding program requirements and mentor assignments.

Students will never directly receive cash from Tennessee Promise. Once Pell, TELS, and TSAA have been applied, TSAC will send scholarship funds covering the remaining costs of tuition and mandatory fees directly to institutions for students who have met all eligibility requirements.

## Partnering Organizations

Tennessee Promise's mentoring component distinguishes the program from any other state financial aid program across the country. Partnering organizations, designated by the mayor of each Tennessee county, will work with the TSAC to administer Tennessee Promise, including the provision of student mentoring. Partnering organizations will:

- *Provide mentoring services*
- *Conduct required Tennessee Promise meetings for students\**
- *Report community service performed by students*
- *Provide notification to TSAC when Tennessee Promise participants have met all scholarship requirements*
- *Establish local Tennessee Promise advisory councils to build a network of advocates for the program*

A list of approved Tennessee Promise partnering organizations is located below.

*\*Only partnering organizations can conduct the required meetings. Counselors and school staff are encouraged to attend the meetings.*

## Community Service

Community service is an important component of Tennessee Promise. A student participating in the program must perform eight hours of community service per academic term, prior to August 1 for the fall semester, December 1 for the spring semester, and May 1 for the summer semester. Partnering organizations must provide students with community service guidelines in advance and are responsible for documenting and reporting that students meet the service requirement.

For their community service, students may choose any activity benefiting their community, provided it fits within the guidelines set by their partnering organization and it does not fall into one of the following categories:

- *Community service performed prior to January 1 of a student's senior year*
- *Work resulting in payment or remuneration of any kind*
- *Work directly benefiting family members*

For more information on community service requirements or opportunities, contact your county's local partnering organization.

## PARTNERING ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

### **tnAchieves**

Krissy DeAlejandro  
krissy@tnachieves.org  
865-621-9223

### **Ayers Foundation**

Susan Rhodes  
susan.rhodes@theayersfoundation.org  
931-589-3660

### **Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI)**

Lisa Hankins  
lhankins@swtdd.org  
731-668-6450



# TENNESSEE PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

## Summary of Rules and Regulations

The Tennessee Promise Scholarship Program rules were adopted by the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation in order to implement Public Chapter 900, the Tennessee Promise Scholarship Act of 2014.

### The Tennessee Promise Scholarship:

- Provides financial assistance to offset tuition and mandatory fees associated with pursuing postsecondary education after all other gift aid has been credited to tuition and mandatory fees. "Gift aid" is defined as Pell, TELS, and TSAA awards.
- Shall not include fees charged for online courses, specific programs of study, books, or supplies, even if such fees are considered necessary for enrollment.

### Tennessee Promise Scholarship Program Participants Must:

- Complete the Tennessee Promise Scholarship award application no later than the November deadline of their senior year of high school for the initial year of enrollment. For each successive year, the renewal application must be submitted no later than July 1 prior to the academic year.
- File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or renewal FAFSA, available at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov), in each year of program participation. Students enrolled in a two-year or four-year college must file the FAFSA by February 15 for fall enrollment or by November 1 for spring and summer enrollment. Students enrolled at a TCAT must complete the FAFSA by February 15 for summer and fall enrollment or by November 1 for spring enrollment.
- Be a Tennessee resident as defined by Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0240-02-02, as promulgated by the Board of Regents.
- Graduate from an eligible Tennessee high school or home school program beginning in the spring of 2015 or obtain a GED or HiSET diploma prior to reaching 19 years of age. Eligible high schools are defined in T.C.A. § 49-4-902 and an eligible home school student is defined in T.C.A. § 49-4-708.
- Maintain continuous, full-time enrollment each academic term at an eligible postsecondary institution as defined in T.C.A. § 49-4-708 beginning in the fall term immediately following graduation or attainment of a GED or HiSET diploma; except that a student enrolling in a Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) may enroll in the summer prior to the fall term.
- Maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0, as determined by the eligible postsecondary institution, at the end of each academic year if enrolled in an associate's degree program, or maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined by a TCAT if enrolled at a TCAT.

- Prior to fall enrollment, attend two mandatory meetings organized by a county's partnering organization.
- Complete eight hours of community service each term while participating in the program. Service shall be performed prior to the beginning of each academic term (by August 1 for fall semester, by December 1 for spring semester, and by May 1 for summer semester), including the initial fall semester, in which the scholarship is received.
- Complete a diploma or associate's degree prior to reaching a terminating event. Transfer students may continue to receive the award if able to complete the diploma or degree at the new institution prior to a terminating event.
- Comply with United States Selective Service System requirements for registration, if such requirements are applicable to the student.
- Be in compliance with federal drug-free rules and laws for receiving financial assistance and not be incarcerated.
- Not be in default on a federal Title IV or Tennessee educational loan and not owe a refund on a federal Title IV or a Tennessee student financial aid program.
- Meet the following criteria to be granted a personal or medical leave of absence from the scholarship program:

Allowable medical or personal reasons may include illness of the student; illness or death of an immediate family member; extreme financial hardship of the student or student's immediate family; fulfillment of a religious commitment encouraged of members of that faith; fulfillment of required military service; the program of study at a TCAT only begins in the spring or summer academic term or openings are unavailable for the fall academic term; full-time attendance at an eligible four-year institution while waiting for admission to an eligible postsecondary program; or other extraordinary circumstances beyond the student's control where attendance by the student creates a substantial hardship. In the event an institution denies a student's request for a medical or personal leave of absence, the student may appeal the decision in accordance with these rules. The appeals process is explained at:

<http://www.tn.gov/collegepays/article/TELS-Program-and-TN-Promise-Scholarship-Appeals-and-Exceptions>

### Tennessee Promise Scholarship Termination Criteria:

A student shall be eligible for the Tennessee Promise Scholarship until the occurrence of the first of the following events:

- The student has earned a diploma or associate's degree; or
- The student has attended five semesters, exclusive of approved leaves of absence. An approved leave of absence shall not count against the five semester limit.

# GLOSSARY

**Advisory council:** Each partnering organization organizes a local advisory council to serve as an advocate for the program. The advisory council is comprised of a minimum of five members, with at least one member representative from each of the following: the local education agency, the county mayor or executive's office, and a local postsecondary institution.

**Associate's degree:** An undergraduate academic degree awarded by community colleges, bachelor's degree-granting colleges, and universities upon completion of a course of study usually lasting two years or 60 credits.

**Certificate program:** A sequence, pattern, or group of academic credit courses that focuses on an area of specialized knowledge or information and has specifically defined outcomes. Many programs are designed for working students who wish to upgrade their skills or gain additional certification in a particular area.

**Community college:** A non-residential, non-profit college offering certificate and associate's degree programs.

**Community service:** Any service which benefits the community and neither results in payment or compensation, nor directly benefits family members. Partnering organizations will provide specific guidelines for community service to students receiving the scholarship, and students must complete their eight community service hours before the start of each academic term.

**Eligible student:** A Tennessee resident who graduates from an eligible Tennessee high school, completes a Tennessee home school program, or, prior to reaching 19 years of age, obtains a GED or HiSET diploma can apply for Tennessee Promise. To meet all requirements of the application process, students must be able to complete the FAFSA, qualify for in-state tuition, and possess a valid Social Security number. Students will apply in the fall of their high school senior year and begin working with a mentor and attending mandatory meetings in their counties in the spring of their senior year.

**Eligible institution:** Any of Tennessee's 27 colleges of applied technology, 13 community colleges, or any HOPE eligible independent or public four-year university offering an associate's degree or certificate.

**Full-time student:** A student enrolled in and attending a minimum of at least 12 semester hours or enrolled in a full-time program at a TCAT.

**Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):** The form that must be completed in order to qualify for any type of governmental financial aid for higher education.

**Last-dollar scholarship:** For the purpose of Tennessee Promise, a last-dollar scholarship pays the remaining tuition and mandatory fees after Pell, TELS, and TSAA funds have been awarded.

**Mandatory meeting:** A meeting organized and held by the partnering organization and attended by students, parents, and mentors. Various college topics including financial aid, application process, and FAFSA completion will be discussed at these meetings.

**Mentor:** A mentor serves to help students navigate the college application and matriculation processes. Tennessee Promise partnering organizations administer the mentoring portion of the scholarship. At a minimum, a volunteer mentor must be at least 21 years of age and pass a background check. Partnering organizations will host mandatory student meetings in each county where mentors and students will interact. All mentors must be trained by a partnering organization prior to mentoring Tennessee Promise students.

**Partnering organization:** A partnering organization is an organization that will work with TSAC and postsecondary institutions to administer the Tennessee Promise program. Partnering organizations will be responsible for providing mentoring services, conducting meetings for students regarding various college topics (financial aid, application process, FAFSA completion, etc.), and approving/reporting community service performed by students. These organizations will operate independent of state funding. Partnering organizations will also establish local Tennessee Promise advisory councils to advocate for the program in each county.



## GLOSSARY, CONT.

**Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT):**

Tennessee institutions which provide technical training for workers to obtain the technical skills and professional training necessary for advancement in the job market. Students completing a program at a TCAT can receive diplomas and industry certifications.

**Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship (TELS):**

Scholarships funded by the Tennessee Education Lottery, including the Tennessee HOPE Scholarship, Tennessee HOPE Access Grant, Aspire Award, the General Assembly Merit Scholarship (GAMS), and Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant. Detailed information regarding TELS, TELS eligibility, and a full list of TELS scholarships and grants can be found at: [www.tn.gov/collegepays](http://www.tn.gov/collegepays)

**Tennessee Student Assistance Award (TSAA) program:**

A need-based, state grant program available to Tennessee residents who are enrolled (or accepted for enrollment) at least half-time at public or eligible non-public postsecondary institutions in Tennessee.

**Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC):**

TSAC is a state agency that provides financial assistance for postsecondary educational opportunities to Tennessee residents and other students who have established eligibility in accordance with program guidelines. TSAC administers Tennessee Promise, with assistance from the partnering organizations.

**Tennessee Reconnect:** An initiative aimed at helping adults earn a postsecondary credential that includes scholarships and information resources. Through the TCAT Reconnect scholarship, Tennessee adults will be able to attend and earn a certificate at one of Tennessee's 27 TCATs completely free of tuition and mandatory fees.

**Tennessee Transfer Pathways (TTPs):** Advising tools designed to help community college students plan for transferring to Tennessee public universities or select Tennessee private colleges or universities to complete their baccalaureate degree. The TTPs also constitute an agreement between community colleges and four-year colleges/universities confirming that community college courses meet major preparation requirements.

**Tuition and mandatory fees:** Tuition and mandatory fees include credit hour charges, activity fees, and other associated institutional fees that are charged to all enrolled students. Tennessee Promise does not cover fees for online programs, specific programs of study, books, supplies, or additional fees associated with individual courses.

## TENNESSEE PROMISE ANNUAL TIMELINE

<b>November 2</b>	Students <b>MUST</b> fill out the application for Tennessee Promise by November 2. The application is available on <a href="http://www.TNPromise.gov">www.TNPromise.gov</a> .
<b>February 15</b>	Students must file the 2016-2017 FAFSA at <a href="http://www.fafsa.gov">www.fafsa.gov</a> by February 15. If families haven't filed taxes, estimated income can be used and updated later.
<b>In January - March In March - May</b>	Partnering organizations will host mandatory meetings in the spring for students. Dates for the meetings will be set by the partnering organizations.
<b>In the Spring</b>	Students must apply to and register for classes at an eligible college program prior to the beginning of classes. Applying and registering early ensures students will meet all deadlines from the institution. (Partnering organizations may recommend applying by February 15.)
<b>August 1</b>	Students must complete 8 hours of community service prior to the beginning of each semester, including the initial fall semester. The deadline is August 1 for fall semester, December 1 for spring semester, May 1 for summer semester. Partnering organizations will provide guidelines and verify community service hours. ( <i>May 1 community service deadline for students enrolling at a TCAT the summer after high school graduation.</i> )

# TENNESSEE PROMISE INSTITUTIONS

## TENNESSEE COLLEGES OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGY (TCATs)

**Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Athens**  
Athens, TN  
[www.tcatathens.edu](http://www.tcatathens.edu)

**Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Chattanooga**  
Chattanooga, TN  
[www.chattanoogaastate.edu/tcat](http://www.chattanoogaastate.edu/tcat)

**Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Covington**  
Covington, TN  
[www.tcatcovington.edu](http://www.tcatcovington.edu)

**Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Crossville**  
Crossville, TN  
[www.tcatcrossville.edu](http://www.tcatcrossville.edu)

**Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Crump**  
Crump, TN  
[www.tcatcrump.edu](http://www.tcatcrump.edu)

**Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Dickson**  
Dickson, TN  
[www.tcatdickson.edu](http://www.tcatdickson.edu)

**Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Elizabethton**  
Elizabethton, TN  
[www.tcatelizabethton.edu](http://www.tcatelizabethton.edu)

**Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Harriman**  
Harriman, TN  
[www.tcatharriman.edu](http://www.tcatharriman.edu)

**Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Hartsville**  
Hartsville, TN  
[www.tcathartsville.edu](http://www.tcathartsville.edu)

**Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Hohenwald**  
Hohenwald, TN  
[www.tcathohenwald.edu](http://www.tcathohenwald.edu)

**Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Jacksboro**  
Jacksboro, TN  
[www.tcatjacksboro.edu](http://www.tcatjacksboro.edu)

**Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Jackson**  
Jackson, TN  
[www.tcatjackson.edu](http://www.tcatjackson.edu)

**Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Knoxville**  
Knoxville, TN  
[www.tcatknoxville.edu](http://www.tcatknoxville.edu)

**Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Livingston**  
Livingston, TN  
[www.tcatlivingston.edu](http://www.tcatlivingston.edu)

**Tennessee College of Applied Technology- McKenzie**  
McKenzie, TN  
[www.tcatmckenzie.edu](http://www.tcatmckenzie.edu)

**Tennessee College of Applied Technology- McMinnville**  
McMinnville, TN  
[www.tcatmcminnville.edu](http://www.tcatmcminnville.edu)

**Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Memphis**  
Memphis, TN  
[www.tcatmemphis.edu](http://www.tcatmemphis.edu)

**Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Morristown**  
Morristown, TN  
[www.tcatmorristown.edu](http://www.tcatmorristown.edu)

**Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Murfreesboro**  
Murfreesboro, TN  
[www.tcatmurfreesboro.edu](http://www.tcatmurfreesboro.edu)

**Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Nashville**  
Nashville, TN  
[www.tcatnashville.edu](http://www.tcatnashville.edu)

**Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Newbern**  
Newbern, TN  
[www.tcatnewbern.edu](http://www.tcatnewbern.edu)

**Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Oneida/Huntsville**  
Huntsville, TN  
[www.tcatoneida.edu](http://www.tcatoneida.edu)

**Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Paris**  
Paris, TN  
[www.tcatparis.edu](http://www.tcatparis.edu)

**Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Pulaski**  
Pulaski, TN  
[www.tcatpulaski.edu](http://www.tcatpulaski.edu)

**Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Ripley**  
Ripley, TN  
[www.tcatripley.edu](http://www.tcatripley.edu)

**Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Shelbyville**  
Shelbyville, TN  
[www.tcatshelbyville.edu](http://www.tcatshelbyville.edu)

**Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Whiteville**  
Whiteville, TN  
[www.tcatwhiteville.edu](http://www.tcatwhiteville.edu)

## TENNESSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGES

**Chattanooga State Community College**  
Chattanooga, TN  
[www.chattanoogaastate.edu](http://www.chattanoogaastate.edu)

**Cleveland State Community College**  
Cleveland, TN  
[www.clevelandstatecc.edu](http://www.clevelandstatecc.edu)

**Columbia State Community College**  
Columbia, TN  
[www.columbiastate.edu](http://www.columbiastate.edu)

**Dyersburg State Community College**  
Dyersburg, TN  
[www.dscc.edu](http://www.dscc.edu)

**Jackson State Community College**  
Jackson, TN  
[www.jscc.edu](http://www.jscc.edu)

**Motlow State Community College**  
Tullahoma, TN  
[www.mscc.edu](http://www.mscc.edu)

**Nashville State Community College**  
Nashville, TN  
[www.nsc.edu](http://www.nsc.edu)

**Northeast State Community College**  
Blountville, TN  
[www.northeaststate.edu](http://www.northeaststate.edu)

**Pellissippi State Community College**  
Knoxville, TN  
[www.pstcc.edu](http://www.pstcc.edu)

**Roane State Community College**  
Harriman, TN  
[www.roanestate.edu](http://www.roanestate.edu)

**Southwest Tennessee Community College**  
Memphis, TN  
[www.southwest.tn.edu](http://www.southwest.tn.edu)

**Volunteer State Community College**  
Gallatin, TN  
[www.volstate.edu](http://www.volstate.edu)

**Walters State Community College**  
Morristown, TN  
[www.ws.edu](http://www.ws.edu)

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### Tennessee Promise at Four-Year Institutions:

In order to use the Tennessee Promise scholarship at a four-year college or university, students must enroll in an associate's degree program at that school – not a bachelor's degree program. A list of associate's degree programs at each eligible four-year institution across the state is below for your reference. Students enrolling in a health sciences program will only begin receiving funds once admitted into the actual program of study.

At a four-year institution, the Tennessee Promise scholarship will not be last-dollar, meaning it will not cover all tuition and fees. The amount of funding you will receive will be based on the average amount of tuition and fees at a community college, which is estimated to be \$4,000. As a last-dollar scholarship, Tennessee Promise will provide whatever amount remains after your Pell, HOPE, and TSAA funds are applied. For example, if you were to receive \$3,000 in HOPE funds, but no other federal or state financial aid, Tennessee Promise would provide \$1,000 to cover the remaining amount that you could apply toward tuition and fees at a four-year school.

## PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES WITH ELIGIBLE TWO-YEAR PROGRAMS\*

**Austin Peay State University**  
Clarksville, TN  
[www.apsu.edu](http://www.apsu.edu)

- ☐ Chemical Engineering Technology
- ☐ Engineering Technology
- ☐ Liberal Arts
- ☐ Management Technology

**Tennessee State University**  
Nashville, TN  
[www.tnstate.edu](http://www.tnstate.edu)

- ☐ Dental Hygiene
- ☐ Nursing

## PRIVATE COLLEGES WITH ELIGIBLE TWO-YEAR PROGRAMS\*

### **Aquinas College**

Nashville, TN

[www.aquinascollege.edu](http://www.aquinascollege.edu)

- ☐ Liberal Arts
- ☐ Nursing

### **Art Institute of Tennessee- Nashville**

Nashville, TN

[new.artinstitutes.edu/nashville](http://new.artinstitutes.edu/nashville)

- ☐ Baking & Pastry
- ☐ Culinary Arts
- ☐ Digital Image Management
- ☐ Fashion Retailing
- ☐ Graphic & Web Design
- ☐ Video Production
- ☐ Web Design & Development
- ☐ Web Design & Interactive Communications

### **Baptist College of Health Sciences**

Memphis, TN

[www.bchs.edu](http://www.bchs.edu)

- ☐ Pre-Health Studies

### **Bethel University**

McKenzie, TN

[www.bethelu.edu](http://www.bethelu.edu)

- ☐ General Studies
- ☐ Accounting (Online)
- ☐ Business (Online)
- ☐ Criminal Justice (Online)
- ☐ Customer Relationship Management (Online)
- ☐ Information Technology (Online)

### **Bryan College**

Dayton, TN

[www.bryan.edu](http://www.bryan.edu)

- ☐ Business Administration
- ☐ Liberal Arts

### **Carson-Newman University**

Jefferson City, TN

[www.cn.edu](http://www.cn.edu)

- ☐ Liberal Arts

### **Christian Brothers University**

Memphis, TN

[www.cbu.edu](http://www.cbu.edu)

- ☐ Business Studies
- ☐ General Studies
- ☐ Psychology

### **Cumberland University**

Lebanon, TN

[www.cumberland.edu](http://www.cumberland.edu)

- ☐ General Studies
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Criminal Justice
- ☐ Education

### **Hiwassee College**

Madisonville, TN

[www.hiwassee.edu](http://www.hiwassee.edu)

- ☐ Agri-Business Technology
- ☐ Allied Health
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Dental Hygiene
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Forestry Technology
- ☐ Liberal Arts
- ☐ Music
- ☐ Science

### **John A. Gupton College**

Nashville, TN

[www.guptoncollege.edu](http://www.guptoncollege.edu)

- ☐ Funeral Services

### **Johnson University**

Knoxville, TN

[www.johnsonu.edu](http://www.johnsonu.edu)

- ☐ Biblical Studies
- ☐ Intercultural Studies

### **Lincoln Memorial University**

Harrogate, TN

[www.lmunet.edu](http://www.lmunet.edu)

- ☐ Nursing
- ☐ Veterinary Health Sciences
- ☐ Veterinary Medical Technology

### **Martin Methodist College**

Pulaski, TN

[www.martinmethodist.edu](http://www.martinmethodist.edu)

- ☐ General Studies

### **South College**

Knoxville, TN

[www.southcollegetn.edu](http://www.southcollegetn.edu)

- ☐ Accounting
- ☐ Business Administration
- ☐ Criminal Justice
- ☐ Elementary Education
- ☐ Health Science
- ☐ Medical Assisting
- ☐ Paralegal Studies

### **Southern Adventist University**

Collegedale, TN

[www.southern.edu](http://www.southern.edu)

- ☐ Accounting
- ☐ Auto Service
- ☐ Business Administration
- ☐ Construction Management
- ☐ Culinary Arts
- ☐ Engineering Studies
- ☐ General Studies
- ☐ Graphic Design
- ☐ Media Technology
- ☐ Nursing
- ☐ Personal Selling
- ☐ Pre-Dental Hygiene
- ☐ Pre-Nutrition & Diabetes
- ☐ Pre-Physical Therapy
- ☐ Pre-Speech Language Pathology & Audiology
- ☐ Religion

### **Trevecca Nazarene University**

Nashville, TN

[www.trevecca.edu](http://www.trevecca.edu)

- ☐ Business Administration
- ☐ Christian Ministry
- ☐ General Studies
- ☐ Information Technology
- ☐ Mathematics
- ☐ Praise & Worship
- ☐ Professional Communication

### **Welch College**

Nashville, TN

[www.welch.edu](http://www.welch.edu)

- ☐ General Studies
- ☐ Biology: Pre-Nursing
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Early Childhood
- ☐ Ministry

\*These institutions offer two-year programs which are eligible for Tennessee Promise. Students must be admitted to the associate's degree program before they can participate in Tennessee Promise. Four-year programs at these institutions are not eligible. Programs are current as of July 2015. See page 12 for more information.

..... S E C T I O N 2 .....

# Implementing Tennessee Promise

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# IDEAS FOR PROMOTING TENNESSEE PROMISE IN YOUR SCHOOL

## Integrating Tennessee Promise into Events

### Tennessee Promise Pep Rally/Kickoff

A Tennessee Promise kickoff event or pep rally is a great way to inform your students of Tennessee Promise and to encourage a college-going culture in your school. This event can include just your seniors or your entire student body; it's also a great opportunity to invite community members, mentors, your county's partnering organization, teachers, and parents to help build school-wide excitement and enthusiasm around going to college.

Your kickoff event should be representative of your school and students. Some activity ideas are:

- *Invite a motivational speaker or alumnus of your school to talk to students about college*
- *Host a panel of recent graduates to discuss their successful transition into college*
- *Ask communications students at your high school or local university to make a short video about Tennessee Promise*
- *Introduce members of your school's staff and your partnering organization's staff who can help students through the college-going process*
- *Ask your school's staff and other staff to wear college gear*

### Path to College Event: College App Week

College Application Week is one of the Path to College events, a series of statewide events sponsored by CollegeforTN.org and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. The goal of College App Week is to build excitement and enthusiasm around the college application process and provide every graduating senior with the opportunity to apply. Though there is a focus placed on first-generation students and students who may not otherwise apply to college, all students, from kindergarten to 12th grade, are encouraged to participate and start making their college plans.



College App Week is a great time to talk to your seniors about Tennessee Promise and encourage all students who are interested in a certificate or two-year program to apply for the Tennessee Promise Scholarship! Consider marking the Tennessee Promise application page ([www.TNPromise.gov](http://www.TNPromise.gov)) as a "Favorite" or "Bookmarked" page on the computers being used during College App Week to allow students to quickly navigate to and complete the application after they have completed their college applications.

If you would like to register your school as a College App Week location and receive the College App Week Site Coordinator Handbook and College App Week promotional materials, you can find more information and the registration link here: [secure.collegefortn.org/Home/College\\_App\\_Week/\\_default.aspx](http://secure.collegefortn.org/Home/College_App_Week/_default.aspx)

If you have any questions about College App Week, please contact Kate Derrick ([kate.derrick@tn.gov](mailto:kate.derrick@tn.gov), 615-532-0428) or Mary Laphen ([mary.laphen@tn.gov](mailto:mary.laphen@tn.gov), 615-253-1155).

### Path to College Event: College Goal Tennessee

College Goal Tennessee is a non-profit program that provides free information and assistance to Tennessee families applying for financial assistance for higher education. College Goal Tennessee mobilizes the TSAC outreach specialists and financial aid professionals from Tennessee colleges, universities, career colleges, and TCATs to help families of college-bound students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the form used to apply for federal aid and for state aid such as the HOPE scholarship and TSAA.

As you prepare for and advertise the College Goal Tennessee event in your area, we encourage you to reach out to your Tennessee Promise students and remind them their FAFSA must be completed by February 15th. If your event is being held before February 15th, encourage your Tennessee Promise students to attend and complete the essential step of completing their FAFSA at your local College Goal Tennessee event.

Your TSAC outreach specialist will work with you in the fall to schedule a FAFSA night for January or February; you can make that FAFSA event your College Goal Tennessee event. To learn more about College Goal Tennessee, please visit: [www.tn.gov/collegegoaltennessee](http://www.tn.gov/collegegoaltennessee).

## Path to College Event: College Signing Day

College Signing Day is a statewide event sponsored by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. We encourage high schools to devote one day in the spring to celebrate their seniors who are continuing to postsecondary education. The highlight of this day is often a school-wide assembly or pep rally during which each senior's college choice (college is defined as any type of formal postsecondary training) is announced and celebrated among the school community. The goal of the event is to celebrate and encourage the seniors who are pursuing postsecondary education, while also raising enthusiasm and awareness of college options and attendance among the entire student body.

We encourage you to include your partnering organization in College Signing Day. This is a great opportunity to invite local mentors to attend the event and support their students. Your partnering organization may also want to recognize their Tennessee Promise students with a certificate at College Signing Day or Senior Awards Ceremony.

For more information and resources to plan your College Signing Day, please contact Mary Laphen ([mary.laphen@tn.gov](mailto:mary.laphen@tn.gov), 615-253-1155).

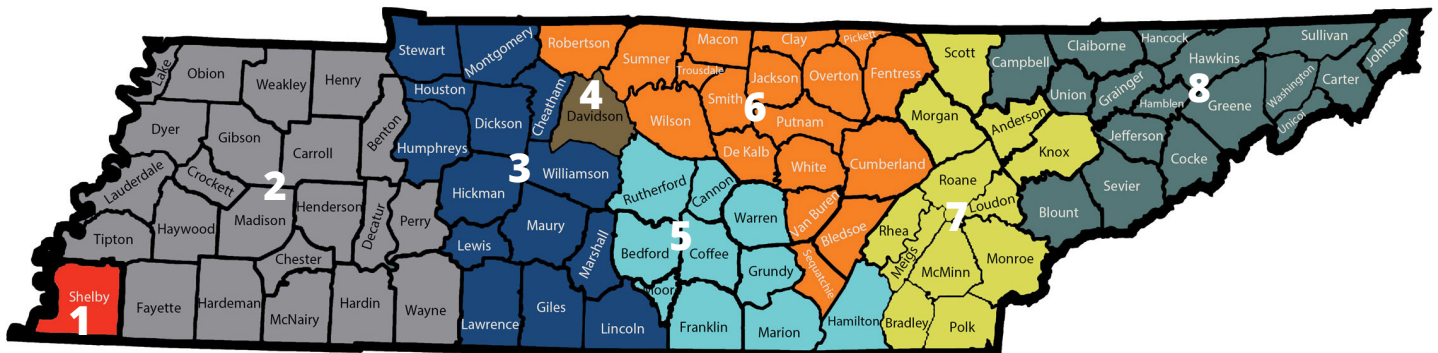
## Parent Outreach

When talking about scholarship opportunities, reaching out to parents can be as important as reaching out to students. We recommend hosting a "Paying for College" Parent Night at your school to tell parents about Tennessee Promise and how their students can benefit from it and other available state aid programs, such as the HOPE scholarship, Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant, and TSAA.

TSAC can assist you in hosting a parent night. Contact TSAC to schedule an outreach specialist to conduct the event and talk about available financial aid in Tennessee. You can find outreach specialist contact information below.

We also recommend using your school's automated call or text message system to remind parents of Tennessee Promise application and financial aid deadlines.

## Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation Outreach Specialist Map



### 1. Felicia Orr

Outreach Specialist  
(615) 390-4461  
[felicia.orr@tn.gov](mailto:felicia.orr@tn.gov)

### 3. Annie Trout

Outreach Specialist  
(615) 604-0119  
[annie.trout@tn.gov](mailto:annie.trout@tn.gov)

### 5. Eric Farmer

Outreach Specialist  
(423) 326-7198  
[eric.farmer@tn.gov](mailto:eric.farmer@tn.gov)

### 7. Rita Keeton

Outreach Specialist  
(615) 478-5584  
[rita.keeton@tn.gov](mailto:rita.keeton@tn.gov)

### 2. Abby Nichols

Outreach Specialist  
(731) 571-7888  
[abby.nichols@tn.gov](mailto:abby.nichols@tn.gov)

### 4. Jason Seay

Director of Outreach  
(615) 319-1740  
[jason.seay@tn.gov](mailto:jason.seay@tn.gov)

### 6. Sam Mullins

Outreach Specialist  
(931) 303-3296  
[sam.mullins@tn.gov](mailto:sam.mullins@tn.gov)

### 8. Erika Adams

Outreach Specialist  
(615) 417-0355  
[erika.adams@tn.gov](mailto:erika.adams@tn.gov)

## In-School Promotion Ideas

### Get the Word Out

Use your school's morning announcements to promote Tennessee Promise. Particularly, as deadlines or meetings are approaching, remind your students about requirements for Tennessee Promise. If your school has a morning news program, coordinate with the producers to feature segments on Tennessee Promise. Once students have been accepted and assigned a mentor, invite students and their mentors to give brief interviews. Pitch an article on Tennessee Promise to your school newspaper. Topics could include encouraging students to apply for the scholarship or a feature of Tennessee Promise students and mentors.

### Feature Alumni

Encourage recent alumni of your high school to come back to your school for a panel to talk about their experiences at a community college or Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT). Featuring recent alumni, who students will trust to "tell it like it is," can be a powerful tool in encouraging students to go to college. Connect with your school newspaper or school news program to interview the recent alumni about their college experiences.

### Push Cards

TSAC will deliver push cards to your school in August; please distribute to all seniors as soon as possible. You can distribute the cards at senior assemblies or any other time where seniors are gathered.

### Host Homeroom Workshops

Teachers can host workshops during homeroom to talk to seniors about Tennessee Promise and apply for the scholarship. These workshops are a great opportunity for teachers to talk to students about the importance of college, answer questions they have about college and the application process, and share their own college experiences.

### Communicate

Hand out the Tennessee Promise information cards to students and their parents. You should have enough information cards to provide them to both seniors and their parents. Give cards out at a school-wide event, send them home with report cards, or hand them out in homerooms. You can also have a stack of them available in your school's front office.

Send letters or e-mail about Tennessee Promise to all parents, students, and school staff. See the templates provided on pages 29, 30, and 31.

You can also host a family information night to talk to students and families who want to learn more about Tennessee Promise. Invite your local partnering organization and/or a TSAC outreach specialist to speak at the event.

### Individual Meetings with Targeted Students

If you have students that you believe would especially benefit from Tennessee Promise or additional college information, set up individual meetings with them to discuss the scholarship. Work with your partnering organization to check that these students are meeting all requirements.

## Sample Tennessee Promise Promotion Timeline

<b>August</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Send out Tennessee Promise emails and letters (see pages 29, 30, and 31 for templates).</li> <li>• Distribute Tennessee Promise information cards to seniors and their families.</li> <li>• Host a Tennessee Promise Kickoff (see page 15 for kickoff ideas).</li> </ul>
<b>September</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host an alumni panel featuring students in two-year programs.</li> <li>• Feature Tennessee Promise stories in the student newspaper.</li> <li>• Host a family night to give parents and families more information about Tennessee Promise.</li> </ul>
<b>October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include Tennessee Promise in your College Application Week activities.</li> <li>• Host homeroom workshops leading up to the Tennessee Promise application deadline.</li> <li>• Go through the process of obtaining a Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID, which students will need to complete the FAFSA in the spring.</li> </ul>
<b>January</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage students to participate in College Goal Tennessee and file their FAFSA.</li> <li>• Pitch the student newspaper with profiles of Tennessee Promise mentors.</li> <li>• Attend the partnering organization meetings with your students and introduce yourself to mentors.</li> </ul>
<b>April/May</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host a College Signing Day to recognize students' postsecondary plans.</li> </ul>

## COMPLETING THE TENNESSEE PROMISE APPLICATION

1. Visit [www.tnpromise.gov](http://www.tnpromise.gov) and click the “**Apply Now**” button.
2. You’ll be taken to the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation Student Portal. Click the “**Create a Log In**” button. (If you already have a TSAC Student Portal account, log in and skip to step 5. Dual Enrollment Grant students will already have a username and password.)
3. Create your account by filling out all of the required fields. Then click the “**Create My Account**” button.
4. Once you’ve created your account, **log in to your TSAC Student Portal account**.
5. On the TSAC Student Portal homepage, click on the green “**Apply for Scholarships**” button at the top left of the page.
6. Click on the “**Tennessee Promise Scholarship Award**” link to begin the application.
7. Follow the prompts to **fill out the Tennessee Promise Scholarship application**. Click “**Submit**” when you are finished.
8. When you complete the application, you’ll get a confirmation screen. **Only when you get the confirmation screen will your Tennessee Promise application be complete.**

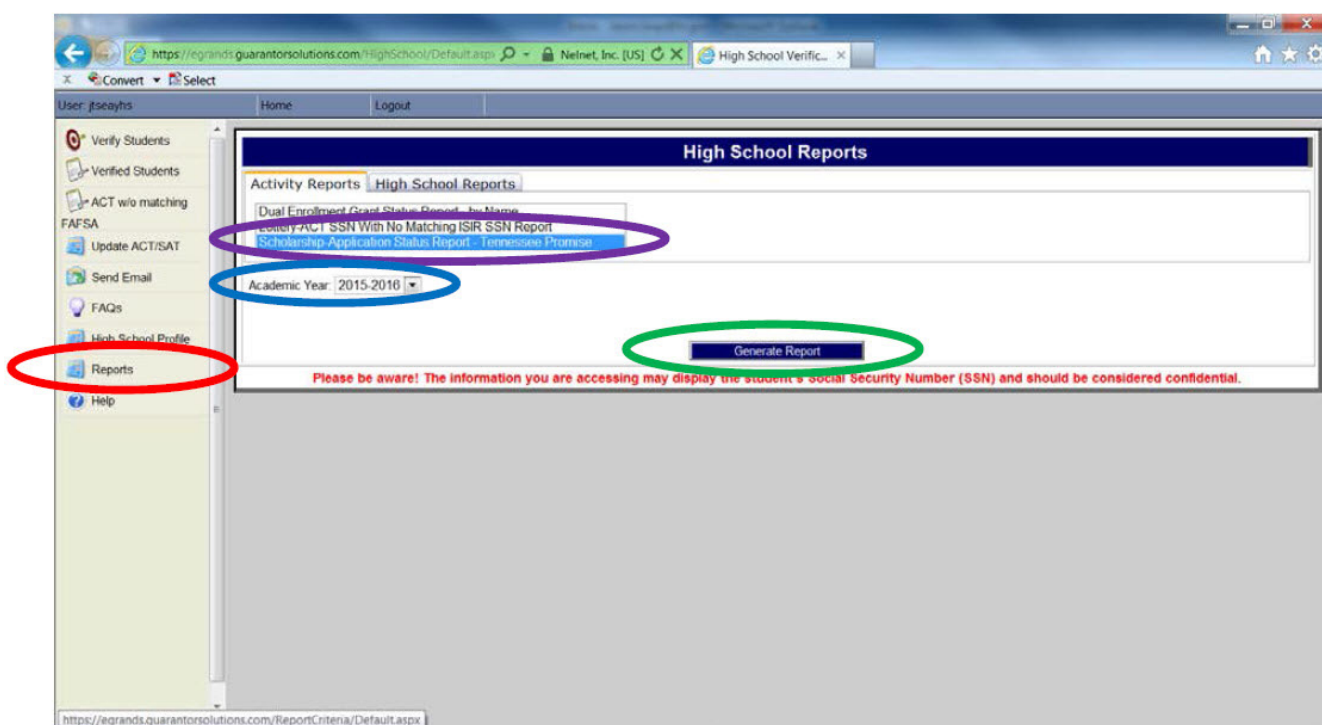
### Information you’ll need for the Tennessee Promise application:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full name: _____                    | <input type="checkbox"/> High school name: _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Security Number (SSN): _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Graduation date: _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full home address: _____            | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Promise-eligible school you’re interested in attending: _____<br>(NOTE: You must also fill out an application to that institution.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County: _____                       | <input type="checkbox"/> TSAC Student Portal account username: _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Home phone number: _____            | <input type="checkbox"/> TSAC Student Portal account password: _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cell phone number: _____            |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Date of birth: _____                |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email address: _____                |  |

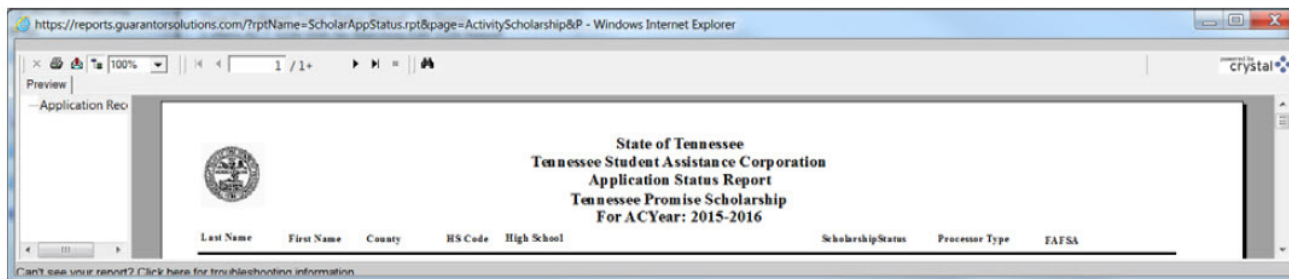
# TENNESSEE PROMISE APPLICATION ROSTER INSTRUCTIONS

As a counselor, you can access updated student information through the e\*G\*RandS system, including a roster of students who have applied for Tennessee Promise or any other financial aid grants through TSAC. Below are the steps to generate a Tennessee Promise report.\*

1. In e\*G\*RandS, click “Reports” on the left side of the screen.
2. Next, click “Scholarship-Application Status Report - Tennessee Promise” under the “Activity Reports” tab.
3. Then, select “2016-2017” from the “Academic Year” pull down box.
4. Finally, click “Generate Report.”



5. A new window should appear with your Tennessee Promise Report.



\*To generate a Tennessee Promise roster, you must have the Crystal Reports script installed on your browser. If you need assistance downloading the script, please visit the Tennessee Promise website for instructions on installing Crystal Reports.



## TENNESSEE PROMISE APPLICATION ROSTER REPORTS SCHEDULE

To assist counselors in keeping up to date with your students who have applied for Tennessee Promise, the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation will send each high school counselor an updated roster on the following dates leading up to the application deadline. If you do not receive an email with an updated Tennessee Promise application roster on or before the following dates, please contact Jason Seay at TSAC ([jason.seay@tn.gov](mailto:jason.seay@tn.gov) or 615-253-7459).

*Note: You can still pull a roster at any time using the directions on page 20.*

### Schedule of Tennessee Promise Student Roster Emails from TSAC

<b>1st List</b>	September 14, 2015
<b>2nd List</b>	October 5, 2015
<b>3rd List</b>	October 19, 2015
<b>4th List</b>	October 26, 2015
<b>5th List</b>	November 2, 2015
<b>Final List</b>	November 6, 2015

..... **S E C T I O N   3** .....

# Resources

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## Requirements of Tennessee Promise

### November 2

Apply to Tennessee Promise at [www.TNPromise.gov](http://www.TNPromise.gov)

### February 15

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)

### In January - March

Attend first mandatory meeting coordinated by a partnering organization

### In March - May

Attend second mandatory meeting coordinated by partnering organization

### In the Spring

Apply to and register for classes at a community or technical college  
(Your partnering organization may ask you to apply by February 15)

### August 1

Complete 8 hours of community service  
(May 1 community service deadline for students enrolling at a TCAT the summer after high school graduation)

## What is Tennessee Promise?

Tennessee Promise offers up to five semesters of tuition-free community or technical college to Tennessee high school graduates. The program provides eligible students a last-dollar scholarship, which covers tuition and mandatory fees not covered by the Pell grant, TELS, and TSAA. Students will also be assigned a partnering organization and mentor who will provide guidance and assistance as the student enters higher education. Students must participate with a partnering organization to access Tennessee Promise dollars.

## Who is eligible for Tennessee Promise?

To be eligible to receive a Tennessee Promise Scholarship, a student must:

- Be a Tennessee resident as defined by the Tennessee Board of Regents
- Graduate from an eligible Tennessee high school, complete a Tennessee home school program, or, prior to reaching 19 years of age, obtain a GED or HiSET diploma
- Complete the Tennessee Promise application at [www.TNPromise.gov](http://www.TNPromise.gov) by November 2
- Apply to and enroll full-time in a community college, college of applied technology, or eligible program in the fall term after graduation from high school
- Meet all deadlines and requirements before enrolling

## What are the service requirements?

Community service is an important component of Tennessee Promise. A student participating in the program must perform eight hours of community service prior to each semester. The deadline for the fall semester is August 1, spring semester is December 1, and summer semester is May 1.

Any service performed by a student which benefits the community may be counted, except:

- Community service performed prior to January 1 of a student's senior year
- Work resulting in payment or remuneration of any kind
- Work directly benefiting family members

## How are funds distributed?

Students will never directly receive cash from Tennessee Promise. Once Pell, TELS, and TSAA have been applied, scholarship funds covering the remaining costs of tuition and mandatory fees will be sent directly to institutions for students who have met all eligibility requirements.

## FAFSA CHECKLIST

### What information do I need when I fill out the FAFSA?

You should have the following information and documents with you as you complete the **2016-17** Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):

- ☐ Student's Social Security number
- ☐ Parent(s)' Social Security number(s) if, per FAFSA, student is dependent
- ☐ Student's driver's license number if student has one
- ☐ Student's Alien Registration Number if student is not a U.S. citizen
- ☐ 2015 tax information (if required to file) for student (and spouse, if married) and parent(s) if, per FAFSA, student is dependent
  - To complete and submit the 2016-17 FAFSA in January, use estimated tax information (i.e. 2014 tax return, 2015 W-2 information, or last pay stub)
- ☐ Records of untaxed income, such as child support received and veterans noneducation benefits, for student and parent(s) if, per FAFSA, student is dependent
- ☐ Information on checking and savings account balances; investments; and business and farm assets for student and parent(s) if, per FAFSA, student is dependent
- ☐ Student's Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID
- ☐ Parent's FSA ID

Once you've submitted the FAFSA:

- ☐ If you're selected for FAFSA verification, you must provide the necessary documentation to your institution so verification can be completed by August 1st. Verification is an important part of the financial aid process and failing to complete a verification request could delay receipt of funds or cause you to become ineligible for Tennessee Promise. Contact your specific college, university, or TCAT to determine when verification information is needed.

## FAQ'S

### Student Eligibility and Requirements

#### Who is eligible for Tennessee Promise?

Any high school senior, beginning with the Class of 2015, who graduates from an eligible Tennessee high school, completes a Tennessee home school program, or, prior to his or her 19th birthday, obtains a GED or HiSET diploma. Students will apply by November 2 of their high school senior year and begin working with a mentor and attending mandatory meetings in their counties by January.

#### What information will students need to fill out the application?

For the Tennessee Promise application, students will need their full name, social security number, date of birth, full address, county, email address, home phone number, cell phone number, school name, graduation date, and an idea of which community college, college of applied technology, or eligible four-year institution they would like to attend.

#### If students and their families haven't filed taxes by February 15, can they still file the FAFSA before the Tennessee Promise deadline?

Yes. Students can file the FAFSA anytime between January 1 and February 15 and still be eligible for Tennessee Promise. For students whose families have not filed taxes by February 15, they can use estimates when filing the FAFSA. Soon after filing taxes, students should go in and update their FAFSA with recently filed tax information.

Some students may also be asked to verify their FAFSA information. If a student is asked for verification, he or she should provide the necessary documentation to allow the institution to complete verification by August 1st to ensure timely receipt of funds.

#### How long after high school graduation will students have in order to be eligible for Tennessee Promise?

To be eligible for the scholarship, a student must enroll in an eligible postsecondary program and attend full-time in the fall term following graduation from an eligible high school or homeschool program, or completion of a GED or HiSET diploma, provided that the HiSET diploma was earned before the student reached nineteen years of age.

#### Are GED recipients eligible for Tennessee Promise?

Yes. Students who complete a GED or HiSET diploma must enroll full-time in an eligible postsecondary program in the fall after they receive their diploma, provided that the diploma was earned before the student reached nineteen years of age.

#### Do non-U.S. citizens qualify for Tennessee Promise?

No. To be eligible, students must be able to complete the FAFSA, qualify for in-state tuition, and possess a valid Social Security number. The DACA number is NOT a valid entry on the Tennessee Promise application.

A student must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for which the student's U.S. citizenship or eligible non-citizenship status has been confirmed by the federal government.

Note: This option is only available for the following individuals:

- i. U.S. citizens
- ii. U.S. permanent residents (with an I-151, I-551, or I-551C permanent resident card); or
- iii. Individuals who have an Arrival/Departure Record (I-94) showing one of the following designations:
  - ☐ Refugee;
  - ☐ Asylum Granted;
  - ☐ Cuban-Haitian Entrant (Status Pending);
  - ☐ Conditional Entrant (Valid only if issued before April 1, 1980);
  - ☐ Victims of Human Trafficking (T-2, T-3, or T-4 visa); or
  - ☐ Parolee (who meets certain conditions)

#### What other scholarships are available for students not eligible for Tennessee Promise, such as students who graduated prior to 2015?

Additional information on scholarships available to students who don't qualify for Tennessee Promise can be found at: [www.tn.gov/collegepays](http://www.tn.gov/collegepays)

Tennessee Reconnect is an adult initiative aimed at helping adults earn a postsecondary credential. As part of the Reconnect initiative, Tennessee adults can use the TCAT Reconnect scholarship to attend and earn a certificate at a Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) completely free of tuition and mandatory fees. For more information on Tennessee Reconnect and TCAT Reconnect, visit: [www.tnreconnect.gov](http://www.tnreconnect.gov).

#### How do students renew the scholarship?

Once in the program, students must do the following to retain their scholarship:

- *Maintain a 2.0 GPA if at a community college or eligible program at a four-year institution or satisfactory academic progress at a TCAT*
- *Complete a renewal application at [www.TNPromise.gov](http://www.TNPromise.gov) by July 1 prior to the academic year*
- *Complete 8 hours of community service per semester enrolled, to be completed before the start of the term*
- *Complete the FAFSA by February 15 each year the student participates in the program (see page 7 for FAFSA deadlines)*

Partnering organizations will work with students to ensure they get full information about renewing Tennessee Promise each year, including approval and verification of community service hours.

## Funding

### How does the last-dollar scholarship work?

Tennessee Promise is a last-dollar scholarship that funds any remaining tuition and mandatory fees at TCATs, two-year, and four-year schools offering associate's degrees once Pell, TELS, and TSAA have all been applied.

Students who attend a four-year public or independent university offering an associate's degree will receive a last-dollar scholarship not to exceed the average tuition and mandatory fees at Tennessee public community colleges. The average tuition at the public community colleges in 2014-2015 was \$3,985.

### What costs does Tennessee Promise cover?

Tennessee Promise only covers remaining tuition and mandatory fees after Pell, TELS, and TSAA have been applied. Tennessee Promise funds cannot be used for books or other indirect costs, such as transportation, books, living expenses, etc.

### Does Tennessee Promise cover remedial education?

Yes. Tennessee Promise will cover remedial classes if a student should need to take them.

### How will the funds be administered?

Students will never directly receive cash from Tennessee Promise. Once Pell, TELS, and TSAA have been applied, the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC) will send the funds covering the remaining costs of tuition and mandatory fees directly to institutions for students who have met all eligibility requirements.

### How does Tennessee Promise change the HOPE Lottery scholarship award amounts?

Changes to the HOPE Lottery scholarship only affect students graduating with the Class of 2015 and beyond.

For students attending a community college, the new award amount will increase from \$1,000 to \$1,500 per semester.

Students attending four-year institutions will receive \$1,750 per semester as freshmen and sophomores and \$2,250 per semester as juniors and seniors.

## Institutions and Programs

### What institutions accept Tennessee Promise?

Students can use Tennessee Promise at any of Tennessee's 27 TCATs, 13 community colleges, or any HOPE eligible independent or public four-year university offering an associate's degree or certificate.

For a list of eligible institutions, please see pages 11, 12, and 13.

### Can Tennessee Promise be used toward a four-year program?

No. Tennessee Promise funds can only be used toward an associate's degree, diploma, or a certificate. However, the Tennessee Transfer Pathways ensure that students can apply credits from an associate's degree or certificate to easily transfer to a four-year program at a public institution without duplicative course requirements. To learn more about the Tennessee Transfer Pathways, visit: [www.tntransferpathway.org](http://www.tntransferpathway.org)

### Can students transfer to a four-year program or institution once they have completed their degree or certificate through Tennessee Promise?

Yes. The Tennessee Transfer Pathways ensure that students may follow a prescribed curriculum that is universally transferable, marked by clarity, and available for students to review on the first day of enrollment.

Currently, there are 49 approved transfer pathways, spanning 28 disciplines and accepted at all public institutions in Tennessee. Additionally, many private institutions accept these pathways. More information about participating institutions can be found at: [www.tntransferpathway.org/transfer-campus](http://www.tntransferpathway.org/transfer-campus)



# Partnering Organizations and Mentors

## What is the role of the partnering organizations?

Partnering organizations will work with TSAC and the postsecondary institutions to administer Tennessee Promise. Partnering organizations will:

- *Provide mentoring services*
- *Conduct the required meetings for students*
- *Approve and report community service performed by students*
- *Provide notification to TSAC when Tennessee Promise participants have met all scholarship requirements*
- *Establish local Tennessee Promise advisory councils to advocate for the program in the county*

A list of approved partnering organizations for Tennessee Promise is on page 6.

## How were the partnering organizations selected?

In July 2014, county mayors and executives determined which eligible partnering organization would administer Tennessee Promise in their counties.

## How does a student get a mentor?

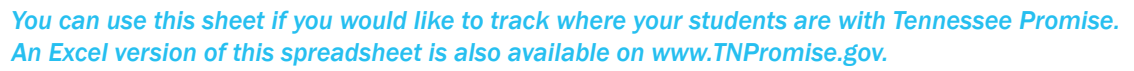
Each student who completes the initial Tennessee Promise application on [www.TNPromise.gov](http://www.TNPromise.gov) will be assigned a mentor. Partnering organizations will be responsible for reaching out to students to match them to a local mentor.

## Who are the mentors?

Depending on which partnering organization is working with a county, mentors will either be paid employees of the partnering organization or volunteer mentors from the local community. Volunteer mentors must be at least 21 years of age and pass a background check prior to being assigned to a student. The mentors are recruited from the local community and are all trained by the partnering organization prior to meeting their students.

## What is the role of the mentor?

The role of the mentor is to help reduce the barriers associated with college access by encouraging students and reminding them of requirements and deadlines. Mentors are asked to be in touch with their students at least once per month, either in person or via phone, text message, or email.



# SAMPLE TEXT FOR COMMUNICATION TO STUDENTS



As a senior at [high school name], you may be eligible for the Tennessee Promise Scholarship, which provides two years of tuition-free education at a community college or college of applied technology. Tennessee Promise is a last-dollar scholarship, which means it will cover all costs of tuition and mandatory fees after all gift aid (Pell, TELS, and TSAA) has been applied. As a Tennessee Promise student, you will be paired with a partnering organization and a mentor who will support you during the college application process. Students must participate with the partnering organization to access Tennessee Promise dollars.

Students can apply for Tennessee Promise by November 2 at [www.TNPromise.gov](http://www.TNPromise.gov). Beyond the application, you must meet the following deadlines and requirements:

1. Apply by November 2. You can apply for Tennessee Promise at [www.TNPromise.gov](http://www.TNPromise.gov).
2. File the **2016-2017** FAFSA by February 15. You must file your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by February 15 at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).
3. Attend the two mandatory meetings set by your partnering organization in the spring. The first meeting will likely take place in January or February and the second meeting will likely take place in March or April. You are required to attend both mandatory meetings coordinated by [insert mentoring organization name: [tnAchieves/Ayers Foundation/REDI](#)].
4. You will need to complete 8 hours of community service for each semester you receive Tennessee Promise funding, including prior to your first semester of college. The deadline for your first 8 hours of community service is August 1. (*May 1 community service deadline for students enrolling at a TCAT the summer after high school graduation.*)
5. Apply to and register for classes at an eligible program. Before the fall semester begins, you will need to apply to a community college, college of applied technology, or eligible program at a four-year institution. Partnering organizations may ask you to apply to an eligible college program by February 15. Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the school once your enrollment is confirmed.

Additionally, some students may also be asked to verify their FAFSA information. If you are asked for verification, you should provide the necessary documentation to allow the institution to complete verification by August 1st to ensure timely receipt of funds.

For more information on Tennessee Promise and to apply, please visit [www.TNPromise.gov](http://www.TNPromise.gov).

Remember, if you do not complete the Tennessee Promise application and all other requirements, but still choose to attend a community college or college of applied technology, you will be responsible for all tuition and mandatory fees not covered by other scholarships or financial aid.

If you have any questions about Tennessee Promise, please contact [partnering organization contact name] at [phone number] or [email address].

## SAMPLE TEXT FOR COMMUNICATION TO PARENTS/FAMILIES



As a senior at [high school name], your student may be eligible for the Tennessee Promise Scholarship, which provides two years of tuition-free education at a community college or college of applied technology. Tennessee Promise is a last-dollar scholarship for tuition and mandatory fees, meaning it will cover costs not met from Pell, TELS, or TSAA. As part of the program, your student will be paired with a partnering organization and mentor who will support them during the college application process. Your student must participate with a partnering organization to access Tennessee Promise dollars.

Students can apply for Tennessee Promise by November 2 at [www.TNPromise.gov](http://www.TNPromise.gov). To be eligible for the scholarship, students must meet the following deadlines:

1. Apply by November 2. Your student can apply for Tennessee Promise at [www.TNPromise.gov](http://www.TNPromise.gov).
2. File the **2016-2017** FAFSA by February 15. Students must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by February 15 at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). For families who have not yet filed taxes for the prior year, estimates can be used on the FAFSA and updated once taxes have been filed.
3. Attend mandatory meetings set by the partnering organization in the spring. The first meeting will likely take place in January, February, or March and the second meeting will likely take place in March, April, or May. Your student will be required to attend both mandatory meetings coordinated by [insert mentoring organization name: [tnAchieves/Ayers Foundation/REDI](#)]. The meetings will be held at the high school.
4. Your student will need to complete 8 hours of community service for each semester they receive Tennessee Promise funding, including prior to his or her first semester. The deadline for the first 8 hours of community service is August 1. *(May 1 community service deadline for students enrolling at a TCAT the summer after high school graduation.)*
5. Apply to and register for classes at an eligible program. Before the fall semester begins, your student must apply to a community college, college of applied technology, or eligible program at a four-year institution. Some partnering organizations may ask students to apply to an eligible college program by February 15. Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the school once his or her enrollment is confirmed.

Some students may also be asked to verify their FAFSA information. If a student is asked for verification, he or she should provide the necessary documentation to allow the institution to complete verification by August 1st to ensure timely receipt of funds.

For more information on Tennessee Promise and to apply, please visit [www.TNPromise.gov](http://www.TNPromise.gov).

Remember, if your student does not complete the Tennessee Promise application and all other requirements, but still chooses to attend a community college, college of applied technology, or two-year program at an eligible four-year institution, he or she will be responsible for all tuition and mandatory fees not covered by other scholarships or financial aid.

If you have any questions about Tennessee Promise, please contact [partnering organization contact name] at [phone number] or [email address].

# SAMPLE TEXT FOR COMMUNICATION TO TEACHERS



For the first time in Tennessee, graduating seniors have the opportunity to attend a community college or college of applied technology free of tuition and mandatory fees under Tennessee Promise. The scholarship covers two years of tuition and mandatory fees at a Tennessee community college, Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT), or an eligible two-year program at a four-year college or university. Tennessee Promise is a last-dollar scholarship to cover costs not met by Pell, TELS, or TSAA. As part of the program, students will be paired with a partnering organization and mentor who will support them during the college application process. Students must participate with a partnering organization to access Tennessee Promise dollars.

Talk to your students about Tennessee Promise and encourage them to apply for the scholarship. For students planning to attend a two-year program or college of applied technology, Tennessee Promise will provide them with a valuable scholarship and a meaningful mentorship opportunity.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must meet the following deadlines:

1. Apply by November 2. Students can apply for Tennessee Promise at [www.TNPromise.gov](http://www.TNPromise.gov).
2. File the **2016-2017** FAFSA by February 15. Students must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by February 15 at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).
3. Attend mandatory meetings set by the partnering organization in the spring. The first meeting will likely take place in January, February, or March and the second meeting will likely take place in March or April. Students are required to attend these mandatory meetings coordinated by **[insert mentoring organization name: tnAchieves/Ayers Foundation/REDI]**. The meetings will be held at the high school.
4. Students will need to complete 8 hours of community service for each semester they receive Tennessee Promise funding, including prior to their first semester. The deadline for the first 8 hours of community service is August 1. *(May 1 community service deadline for students enrolling at a TCAT the summer after high school graduation.)*
5. Apply to and register for classes at an eligible program. Before the fall semester begins, students need to apply to a community college, college of applied technology, or other eligible program at a four-year institution. Some partnering organizations may ask students to apply to an eligible college program by February 15. Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the school once his or her enrollment is confirmed.

Some students may also be asked to verify their FAFSA information. If a student is asked for verification, he or she should provide the necessary documentation to allow the institution to complete verification by August 1st to ensure timely receipt of funds.

For more information on Tennessee Promise, please visit [www.TNPromise.gov](http://www.TNPromise.gov).

If you have any questions about Tennessee Promise, or if any of your students have questions, please contact **[partnering organization contact name]** at **[phone number]** or **[email address]**.